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" (h) Conciliation in respect of general matters such as rates of wages, bonus, etc., will be given up but matters relating to individual foundries and points not covered by the Court of Enquiry will continue to be looked into.

" (i) It is understood that no notice of strike has been served but that the hon. Member in his capacity as the President of the Madras Provincial Foundry Smithy Workers' Union, has written to the Commissioner of Labour, that the Union would serve notice of strike if the demands were not settled immediately.

" (j) The Court of Enquiry was appointed at the instance of the Commissioner of Labour."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—"May I know, Sir, whether Government will resort to the appointment of a Court of Enquiry only when all methods of conciliation have failed? Am I right in thinking so?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—"I do not concede that proposition, as a rule. But wherever there is difficulty, and nothing less than a Court of Enquiry would settle the matter, Government will always appoint a Court of Enquiry."

Producers'-cum-consumers' societies.

*162 Q.—K. T. M. AHMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR (on behalf of Abdul Latif Farookhi Sahib Bahadur) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Food be pleased to state—

(a) whether the organization of the producers'-cum-consumers' societies was opposed by the public in the delta and that the share capital was collected by official pressure and not paid voluntarily by the members;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Co-operative department expressed no great hopes about the working of these societies;

(c) why the Co-operative department was not asked to lend the services of experienced Co-operative officials for the posts of secretaries;

(d) why no Muslim was selected as secretary of any of the societies;

(e) whether it is a fact that the secretaries were selected mostly from amongst Congressmen;

(f) whether it is a fact that the ration shops that were hitherto managed by other co-operative societies and retailers were also being forced to be taken up by these new societies; and

(g) whether it is a fact that the Muslim retailers and Harijan retailers were not exempted from such coercion?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" (a) Share capital was not collected by official pressure. It was obtained on a voluntary basis. There was no general opposition but certain sections of the public who were likely to be affected by the formation of the societies did not welcome the scheme. No

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official pressure was used to collect share capital. Officials assisted the non-officials in the propaganda for the collection of shares.

"(b) No.

"(c) The Co-operative department is short of hands and could spare with difficulty only the staff required for supervision.

"(d) The posts were advertised. Only four Muslims applied and of them three were selected for training and were posted as secretaries. But all of them left the posts voluntarily as they did not find the work congenial.

"(e) No.

"(f) Under the scheme, wholesale, as well as retail distribution has to be done by the societies. There is, therefore, no question of forcing the societies to take up retail ration shops.

"(g) No exemption has been made in regard to ration shops run by Muslims or Harijans or any other community. Instructions have been issued to absorb as many retailers as possible in the scheme provided they are willing to come in and have a good record."

K. T. M. AHMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—" Is it not a fact, Sir, that share capital is collected by official pressure?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" No, Sir."

SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU :—" Is it not a fact, Sir, that Revenue Divisional Officers, Tahsildars and even Stationary Sub-Magistrates have closed their offices and went out on collecting shares in my district?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" The Government are not aware, Sir."

K. T. M. AHMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—" Will the Government make an enquiry into this in view of the allegations now made in this House?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" If particular instances are brought to the notice of the Government, they will be looked into."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know whether the Government have received complaints that mill-owners in Nidadavolu were coerced to join these societies on pain of cancellation of their licence?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" I have no information on that point."

SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU :—" Are the Government aware how many single shareholders there are in these societies?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" Notice."

SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU :—" Are the Government aware that one family was made to subscribe as much as Rs. 2,000?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" Notice."

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SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know whether the Government are aware that most of the shareholders of these societies are persons other than ryots? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" There is no special provision made for ryots only. Whoever subscribes to these societies, become members, whether they are producers, merchants or mill-owners."

SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU :—" Are the Government aware that in these societies actual consumers like mill-hands are not shareholders? "

MR. PRESIDENT :—" The hon. Member will please repeat the question."

SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU :—" Are the Government aware, Sir, that in these societies there are no shareholders who are real consumers like mill workers? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" I do not know what the hon. Member means. Mill workers alone are not consumers. Whoever gets the benefit of a ration shop is a consumer. I do not think that mill-owners and mill workers alone should be classed as consumers."

K. T. M. AHMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—" In view of the Government's practical admission on the floor of the other House that these co-operative societies have failed in their objective . . ."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" May I draw the attention of the hon. Member that we are not aware of any such admission here to permit a supplementary question on that basis? "

K. T. M. AHMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—" In view of the fact that these producer-cum- consumer co-operative societies have failed in their objective, will the Government think of revising their policy in regard to these societies? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" We have stated the fact that these societies have failed in procurement. But the Government have made no further admission in this matter. It is too early to give out the intentions of the Government before they are in full possession of the facts."

K. T. M. AHMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—" In view of the fact that one of the two main objectives of the societies, namely, procurement, has failed, will the Government think of abolishing these societies and restore the *status quo* before the societies were formed? "

MR. PRESIDENT :—" Is there a general admission that the societies have failed *in toto*? There is no such admission."

K. T. M. AHMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—" That is the inference that one can naturally drow from what all has happened, Sir."

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" Whatever the hon. Member may infer, the Government have so far admitted that in Guntur district the societies have failed in procuring the full target amount. No further inference is necessary or called for."

SRI C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR :—" Is it not a fact, Sir, that in these societies every producer and every consumer is entitled to become a member and there is no ban on anybody becoming a member, and the share is fixed at as low as Rs. 5 per share? "

SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU :—" The share is Rs. 25."

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" Anybody who subscribes can become a member."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I ask, Sir, whether the affairs of these societies are conducted by officials and the managing committees are there only in name? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" They are managed by directors elected by shareholders. The Co-operative department has been asked to lend their officers for the supervision of these societies."

SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU :—" May I ask, Sir, whether the directors are recruited only from a single political party in the Congress, I mean from within the Congress? (Interruption.) I mean from those belonging to the ex-Ministerial Group? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" The directors are elected by the shareholders. That is the rule. In regard to particular groups of people becoming directors, they should have had the votes of shareholders for that. The shareholders should have voted for them."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I ask, Sir, whether the rate of procurement for cholam is Rs. 15 while the controlled market rate is Rs. 16? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" I am not aware of the details."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I ask whether the Government have deputed a special officer to study the working of these societies, and if so, whether his report will be placed on the table of the House? "

MR. PRESIDENT :—" Is that a separate question? "

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" It arises out of the working of the co-operative societies."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" But anything connected with the co-operative societies will not arise out of the question."

SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU :—" Is it a fact, Sir, that some of the secretaries of these societies have had only four days' training in the training camp? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" No, Sir, a training for one month was given to these secretaries in various subjects."

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SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU :—" May I know who bore the charges of the training camp? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" I can find out later on."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know, Sir, whether the directors of these societies are nominated, and if so, who nominates them? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" To start with the first set of directors have been nominated by the authority on the spot. It is only a temporary arrangement. As soon as the societies are able to stand on their legs without any further help, election will take place according to the rules."

DR. SIR A. LAKSHMANASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" In view of the great ignorance that prevails in the House on this subject, will the Government publish a statement explaining the genesis of these producer-*cum*-consumer co-operative societies, the persons who are responsible for the creation of the present societies, the method of election of directors by shareholders, the method by which secretaries to the various societies were appointed and also give a brief report on the working of each one of these societies up to 31st March of this year? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" The Government have laid before the Assembly yesterday the whole of the procurement figures for Guntur till nearly the end of this month."

K. T. M. AHMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—" When I was referring to that subject, I was asked not to refer to it."

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" Because it was specifically asked, I said we have placed a copy on the table of the other House. Certainly we will place a copy of the same on the table of this House also. But with regard to the working of the whole scheme as demanded by Dr. Sir A. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliyar, I should ask for some time. I shall certainly call for a report and give all the information asked for."

DR. SIR A. LAKSHMANASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" It will be very helpful to decide the issue with regard to these societies."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Can we get an assurance from the Government that the request of the hon. Member will be complied with? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" I said that the Government accept the suggestion and will certainly comply with the request."

Permits to motor cars.

* 163 *Q.*—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Prohibition be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of new motor cars which became available for distribution since 1st May 1945 and the number distributed in the city and the districts (districtwar figures);